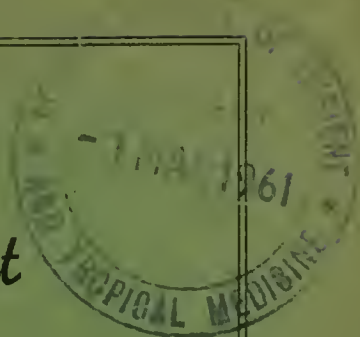


AC 4598



Annual Report
of the
School Medical Officer
to the
Education Committee
of the
Anglesey County Council
1943.



W. O. JONES, FOUNDRY PRINTING WORKS, LLVANGFNI

ANGLESEY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting the 31st Annual Report upon the School Medical Service in the County.

With the exception of the Dental Service, the School Medical Service has otherwise been fully maintained. Mr. Elwyn Jones joined the Services in August, so that the work is now carried on with a depleted staff.

Dr. A. Greville Young joined the R.A.M.C. at the end of the year and his place has been taken by Dr. O. J. Parry-Edwards. This ensures that School Medical Inspection and Diphtheria Immunisation are not interfered with and the figures for the County show that 92% of the scholars are immunised.

The Mid-day meals have resulted in better physique amongst and more regular attendance by the scholars.

68% of the scholars now take dinners at school in the Elementary Schools and 56% in the County Schools.

The general health of the scholars was good throughout the year. Influenza was the chief cause of invalidism. Sixteen schools were closed during the year owing to this complaint.

No schools had to be closed owing to Diphtheria, the result of immunisation is becoming apparent.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Medical Inspection Committee for the keen interest and hearty co-operation in the work of the School Medical Service and to all who have assisted in promoting the smooth running of the Service—the Head Teachers, School Nurses and other members of the staff, I would also express my thanks for their loyal support.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ARNOLD DAVIES,

School Medical Officer.

INTRODUCTION.

Sum produced by Id. Rate, 1942-43 (estimated) £678 19s. 9d.

1. Number of Elementary Schools in the County	62 (70 departments).
Total Average Attendance	5,050.
Number of Scholars examined :	
Routine Examinations	2,360 including 155 evacuees.
Special and Re-Examinations	1,321 including 115 evacuees.
Number of Routine Inspection visits	194, including 25 to evacuee schools.
Number of Special Visits	137, including 15 to evacuee schools.

Visits to Schools include visits for Diphtheria Immunisation.

REPORT OF ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

The routine examination of children aged 5, 8 and 12 respectively in the Elementary Schools along with those showing any defect (or at the request of parents or teachers) was carried out.

Children in the physically defective list were followed up and re-examined. The total number so examined during the year amounted to 1321.

Clothing and Footgear.

This has continued to be of a fair standard though in a few cases shoes have been found to be in a very dilapidated state.

Cleanliness.

On the whole the standard of cleanliness amongst the children appears to have improved. Some credit for this must be to the visiting nurses and to the extra insistence in schools on the need of maintaining a high standard of cleanliness if good health is to be preserved.

Nutrition.

Every child examined is assessed as regards his or her state of nutrition. This is often a difficult matter and individual judgments vary. However, the standard of 1942 which was an improvement on previous years has been maintained. The following table gives the statistics of the 4 grades for the years 1939, 1942, 1943.

	1939	1942	1943
A.	31.77	50.82	52.70
B.	42.78	37.22	35.65
C.	22.92	11.35	11.06
D.	2.53	.61	.59

Undoubtedly, as mentioned in last year's report, the high average standard of nutrition is due to the school dinners which are now available in almost every school. Some definitely undernourished children have also had extra tonic treatment in the way of Ultra Violet Radiation and Halibut Liver Oil Capsules.

Skin Diseases.

Impetigo and warts are the most frequent complaints met with but occasional cases of scabies still occur and a few children in the County suffer from psoriasis. Eczema and ringworm are also seen from time to time.

Nose and Throat.

Some trouble with nose and throat such as obstruction to breathing, attacks of tonsillitis, or frequent colds, is found fairly commonly and is one of the main reasons that bring parents to consult the school doctor. Indeed, without the evidence that parents can supply it is often extremely difficult to decide, by just clinical examination, that an operation for the removal of tonsils and adenoids is required. Recent studies by Paton and others appear to show that the incidence of colds, bronchitis and epidemic diseases is not reduced by tonsillectomy but whilst this may be so I am convinced that of the children in Anglesey who have had tonsils and adenoids removed their general health has in most cases considerably improved. The improvement is sometimes so dramatic that parents, who previously refused consent, seeing the results in other children, have changed their minds and asked that their children should forthwith have their tonsils and adenoids removed. One such parent who had refused consent for 8 years and seeing other children much improved in health following

tonsillectomy asked that her son should be admitted into hospital and treated within the next three days ! Nevertheless the operation is not advocated for merely enlarged tonsils but only when complications are present such as definite obstruction, enlarged glands of the neck without apparent cause, a history of repeated attacks of tonsillitis, etc.

Discharging ears are still commonly met with but as in the past mastoid complications are rare. Serious deafness is only found rarely.

Vision.

Squint is still one of our main problems but we hope the day is not far off when definite training in orthoptic exercises can be undertaken in the County. Minor inflammatory states such as styes, blepharitis conjunctivitis and occasionally corneal ulceration, are met with, but often children so suffering are already in the hands of their own doctor and are not seen by the school doctor until they are better.

Unfortunately, there are still a number of children who do not wear their glasses regularly. In these cases one eye is usually fairly normal, and so this is used and the other completely suppressed resulting in continued deterioration of that eye.

Heart and Circulation.

Heart murmurs were heard in 20 cases but the majority appeared to be functional and in the remainder the heart muscles seemed to be in sound condition for the children showed no distress on exertion.

Chilblains and blueness of the extremities are noticed in a small proportion of the children during the cold weather.

Lungs.

Asthmatic attacks appear to be the most frequent chest trouble complained of but the school doctor rarely sees a child in an attack. This condition is often allied with bronchitis and occasionally evidence of this is found at the time of examination. Serious lung involvement was rarely found but 6 children were sent to the Tuberculosis Officer for further investigation. Some girls who were debilitated or if they seemed liable to develop tuberculosis were sent to Penhesgyn Sanatorium for varying lengths of time. Most of them come back in a very much better state of health but owing to poor home conditions in some cases good results may be spoiled.

Orthopaedic.

Serious orthopaedic conditions are rarely encountered in the schools because they are either too serious to attend school or else they have been treated. However, children found to be suffering from deformity, foot strain, faulty posture, etc., have been referred to the Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Nervous System.

One or two children showing some mild instability of the nervous system are met with in nearly every school but frank cases of chorea are rare. Any suffering from this latter condition, have to be excluded from school for weeks or months.

Mental Defectives.

All stages of mental backwardness are seen from time to time. Some are just due to loss of schooling. Some are poor as regards memory but have a fair standard of intelligence. A few still attending school seem to be ineducable but it is very difficult to know if improvement will not occur as time goes on. Much good work is done amongst the backward children who attend a special class at the St. Cybi School.

School Dinners.

It is gratifying that school dinners are now available to the children in nearly every school and their great effect in improving their general health is undoubted.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The four schools in the County were visited and all the entrants were examined. As quite a large proportion of these are 12 years of age, they have already had one medical examination earlier in the year at their respective elementary schools. The remaining pupils were reviewed as regards their health their eyes tested and nutrition assessed. If there had been any serious illness during the past year, or if there was any complaint regarding their health, a fuller examination was made.

In general the findings were similar to those mentioned in the report on the Elementary Schools given above.

With the approach of adolescence certain other troubles such as ache, boils and headaches are found to be more frequent. Defective eyesight and unhealthy tonsils were the conditions that required treatment rather than any other defect.

Reference was made last year to the poor state of cleanliness particularly amongst some of the girls. It is gratifying to note that there has been improvement in this respect.

With increased staff the dental inspection and treatment has been carried out more thoroughly than was possible before and the state of the teeth has shown marked improvement. Unfortunately the staff has been reduced by the calling up of the Senior Dental Surgeon.

Those who were below average nutrition number 113 i.e. 10%

A few were immunised against Diphtheria who had come from other Counties or who had previously refused to be done.

EVACUEES.

The number of evacuated children gradually diminished during the year but 27 schools were visited, most of them more than once. In some of the schools where the numbers were small, all the children were examined otherwise only the age groups and the remainder reviewed.

Physically defective children who could not be treated in their billets were admitted to the Sick Bay at Holyhead or at Llanfairpwll.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The work of immunisation was continued during the year not only amongst children of school age but also those from the age of one upwards if they were brought to the school by parents or relatives. This arrangement was convenient in areas where there were no Infant Welfare clinics near at hand. Very few children of school age are now unprotected against diphtheria and in these cases it is nearly always a case of permission being refused. It will soon be time to consider stepping up the immunity by giving a further injection to all those children who were done five or more years ago.

A. GREVILLE YOUNG.

REPORT OF SCHOOL OPHTHALMIC SURGEON.

During the period 28th June and 31st December, 1943, the total number of school children examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon was 172, the majority of cases being errors of refraction which needed correction with glasses. A certain proportion were slight conjunctivitis and there were a number of squints. The general condition of the children's eyes was not unsatisfactory.

When the Caernarvonshire Education Committee establish a squint training clinic, it would be to the advantage of the Anglesey children to have the use of such a clinic, as a great proportion of squints can be rectified by exercise.

G. C. LASZLO.

REPORT OF SCHOOL DENTAL SURGEON.

ANGLESEY SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.

Report on the work carried out in the Eastern Half of the Island during 1943.

The routine inspection and treatment of the school children in this part of the island has been carried out as before and there is little new to report. A considerable amount of conservative treatment has been carried out, and objection by parents to the saving of teeth by filling is becoming less frequent. The possession and use of a toothbrush is unfortunately far from universal among the children, and consequently there is prevalent "a stagnation" gingivitis which will inevitably be the foundation for extended oral infection in later life. Individual instruction is given regarding the cleaning of teeth and gums, but so far results have not been encouraging, and will not be until oral cleanliness is part of the children's training in their homes, and as essential a part of daily routine as eating and sleeping.

An investigation into the possibility of Vitamin C deficiency among the school children is being carried out.

Orthodontic treatment is not available in its fullest sense, but many irregularities of dentition are being successfully treated by judicious extractions.

Again I must thank the heads of the schools and their staffs for ready and unfailing co-operation, which has made it possible to carry out this work.

CATHERINE M. ROLANT THOMAS.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SURGEON.

I have nothing unusual to say about the E.N.T. work for the Anglesey School children for the past year.

We have now practically worked off the waiting list of T and A Operations and any new cases referred should not have to wait long for operation.

The number of operations done during the year was 123.

JOHN ROBERTS.

REPORT OF SCHOOL ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON.

The arrangements for Orthopaedic treatment for Anglesey children have continued during 1943 without interruption. It is certainly marvellous that the County has been able to maintain the Orthopaedic service in spite of difficulties and unpopularity attaching to some centres that have been heavily bombed, but I am glad to say that it has been maintained, and I think it is in no small way due to the energy of the local nurses and Miss Holme and Mrs. Roberts.

B. L. MCFARLAND.

ORTHOPAEDIC AFTER-CARE CENTRES.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1942.

Centre	No. of Visits	No. of Patients	Treat- ments	Classes	Homo Visits	Sunlight Treat- ments
Holyhead	42	25	409	70	37	437
Llangefni	42	14	249	37	—	—
Amlwch	42	14	310	42	3	—
Beaumaris	42	5	74	22	14	—
Totals	168	59	1042	171	54	437

G. N. HOLME.

FOLLOWING UP BY THE SCHOOL NURSES, 1942.

DISTRICT	Total Number of Schools in District	Total Average Attend'ce of Schools in District	Number of Examin- ations of Scholars	Number of Visits to Homes	Number of Visits to Schools	Number of Health Talks to Schools
Aberffraw	3	237	2190	108	68	63
Amlwch	3	315	5416	103	95	33
Beaumaris	1	170	536	56	21	8
Bodedern	3	155	1591	—	77	—
Bodorgan	3	162	1421	18	59	53
Gwalchmai	4	288	3246	215	90	9
Holyhead L.M.S. B.	3	430	2671	269	72	2
Holyhead L.M.S. W.	3	805	5001	523	93	8
Holyhead L.M.S. G.			3737	242	72	22
Llanddona	1	63	446	124	21	81
Llanerchymedd	2	203	2373	29	58	58
Llanfaethlu	4	209	2237	29	80	12
Llanfairpwll	2	163	2057	163	32	10
Llanfechell	3	183	1801	48	61	15
Llangefni	5	385	2983	77	83	41
Llangoed	2	126	1280	53	46	4
Llanidan	2	133	819	140	42	20
Nowborough	3	190	2234	171	63	12
Marianglas	4	194	2684	36	87	38
Menai Bridge	2	230	1402	55	65	15
Pentraeth	4	168	1411		62	
Rhoscolyn	2	113	965	49	40	23
Rhosybol	3	128	2174	26	60	8
Total	62	5050	50675	2525	1447	535
Evacuees			6863	141	410	15

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

School Closures.

The following schools were closed during 1943 :—

Measles	Bodedern C.S., Carreglefn C.S., Caergeiliog C.S., Bodffordd C.S., Llandrygarn C.S., Penysarn C.S., Newborough C.S., Pentraeth C.S., Bodorgan C.S., Gwalehmai C.S.
Influenza	Bodedern C.S., Carreglefn C.S., Caergeiliog C.S., Park Infants C.S., Llandegfan C.S., Llandrygarn C.S., Penysarn C.S., Llanerchymedd C.S., Llan- fechell C.S., Llangaffo C.E., Dwyran C.S., Bryn- gwrn C.S., Newborough C.S., Penrhoslligwy N.P., Rhosybol C.S., Bodorgan C.S.
Chicken Pox	Llanddeusant C.S., Tynyngongl C.S.
Scarlet Fever	Cemaes Bay C.S.

Exclusion of Scholars.

Scarlet Fever	38
Chicken Pox	84
Diphtheria	26
Measles	147
Seabiés	14
Sores	4
Whooping Cough	1
Otorrhea	2
Infective Hepatitis	2
	318

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS.

DISTRICT.	Old Cases	New Cases	Total Number of Cases	Total Number of Attendance	Cured	Improved	Under Treatment
Amlwch	18	168	186	1766	148		38
Beaumaris	48	166	214	1461	166	7	41
Holyhead	124	268	392	1402	313	12	67
Llangefni	11	60	71	346	51	9	11
Menai Bridge	30	141	171	856	149		22
Rural	93	659	752	2393	641	15	96
Anglesey	324	1462	1786	8224	1468	43	275
Evacuees	18	286	304	586	290	3	11
	342	1748	2090	8810	1758	46	286

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.

Return of defects found by Medical Inspection in the year ended 31st December, 1943.

A.— Requiring Treatment.

B.— Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.

DISEASE OR DEFECT.		Elementary Schools				Secondary Schools		Evacuated Scholars	
		Routine		Special					
		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Skin	1. Ringworm—Scalp	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	2. Ringworm—Body	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3. Scabies	7	2	11	1	—	—	3	—
	4. Impetigo	3	3	6	1	—	3	—	—
	5. Other Diseases not T.B.	5	18	1	3	1	8	—	1
Eye	6. Blepharitis	1	6	2	5	—	1	—	1
	7. Conjunctivitis	—	3	5	3	1	2	—	1
	8. Keratitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9. Corneal Opacities	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—
	10. Other conditions	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	—
	11. Defective Vision	92	32	78	34	85	36	30	5
	12. Squint	22	6	17	3	5	4	1	2

DISEASE OR DEFECT.		Elementary Schools				Second-ary Schools		Evacu-ated Scholars	
		Routino		Spocial		A	B	A	B
		A	B	A	B				
Ear	13. Defective Hearing	8	9	2	6	—	4	—	1
	14. Otitis Media	7	5	4	10	—	4	1	1
	15. Other Ear Diseases	—	—	4	4	2	2	—	—
Nose & Throat	16. Chronic Tonsilitis only	66	115	85	120	15	40	15	11
	17. Adenoids only	2	4	1	4	1	—	—	—
	18. Chronic T. & A.	35	7	17	15	—	—	1	—
	19. Other conditions	—	3	6	4	4	2	—	1
	20. Enlarged Cervical Glands	24	34	—	33	4	10	—	3
	21. Defective Speech	1	22	—	12	—	2	—	3
Heart	Heart Disease								
	22. Organic	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
	23. Functional	—	18	—	6	—	14	1	3
	24. Anaemia	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
	24a. Debility	8	90	—	68	—	99	—	24
Lungs	25. Bronchitis	—	15	—	8	—	9	—	—
	26. Other non T.B.	—	3	—	3	—	5	—	—
Lungs	Pulmonary								
	27. Definite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28. Suspected	1	19	4	13	—	7	1	—
	Non Pulmonary								
	29. T. B. Glands	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	1
	30. Bones and Joints	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
	31. Skin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	32. Other	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Nervous System	33. Epilepsy	—	—	2	4	—	—	1	1
	34. Chorea	—	8	—	13	—	3	—	3
	35. Other conditions	—	10	1	2	—	—	—	1
Deform-ities	36. Rickets	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	37. Spinal Curvature	1	8	—	3	1	3	—	—
	38. Other forms	12	19	6	11	5	11	—	4
Mental	39. Mental	—	26	1	62	—	—	—	4
	40. Other Diseases & Defects	4	18	2	21	—	15	1	7
	41. Cards C.E.F.	17	111	11	82	2	31	—	4

Table I.*Medical ns Ipection of Children attending public Elementary Schools.***A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

(1) Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :

Entrants	804
Socond Age Group	653
Third Age Group	748
Total	2205

(2) Number of other Routine Inspections—Evacuees 155

Grand Total 2360

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections and Re-Inspections :

Anglesey	1206
Evacuees	115
	1321

Table II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during
the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age Groups.	No. of Children Insp'ted	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly subnormal)		D. (Bad).	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	804	505	62.82	266	33.08	32	3.98	1	.12
Middle	653	268	41.05	285	43.66	93	14.22	7	1.07
Leavers	748	389	52.00	235	31.42	119	15.91	5	.67
Total	2205	1162	52.70	786	35.65	244	11.06	13	.59
Evacuees	155	65	41.93	68	43.87	22	14.22	—	—
Grand Total	2360	1227	52.00	854	36.18	266	11.27	13	.55

Secondary Schools.

Table I.

Medical Inspection of Children attending Secondary Schools.

A.—Routine Medical Inspection :

Number of Inspections 1158

Table II.

Classification of Nutrition.

Excellent	659	56.90%
Normal	386	33.34%
Slightly Sub-Normal	109	9.41%
Bad	4	.34

Table III.

Group I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS (excluding
Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.)

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the
year under the Authority's Scheme 2090
Including 304 Evacuated Scholars.

Group II.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND
SQUINT (excluding minor Eye Defects treated as Minor
Ailments—Group I.)

	Number of Defects dealt with.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise	Total
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including Squint (Operations for Squint should be re- corded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report). Other Defects or Diseases of the Eye excluding those recorded in Group I.	235 (16)	—	235 (16)
	2 (1)	—	2 (1)
Total	237 (17)	—	237 (17)

Number of Children for whom Spectacles
were :

(a) Prescribed 204 (16 Evacuated).
(b) Obtained 204 (16 Evacuated).

Group III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

Received Operative Treatment.		Received other forms of Treatment	Total No. treated
Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
123 (.)	—	5 (.)	128 (.)

Figures in () denote Evacuated Scholars.

Table IV.
Dental Inspection and Treatment.

1. Number of Children inspected.

(a) Routine Age Group.

Age	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 & over	Total
Anglesey	123	298	349	346	331	352	335	343	340	319	348	3484
Evacuees		34	27	39	47	47	48	40	37	30	9	358
Total ...	123	332	376	385	378	399	383	383	377	349	357	3842

	Anglesey.	Evacuees.	Total
2. Number found to require treatment	4102	186	4288
3. Number actually treated	2648	174	2822
4. Attendances made by Children for Treatment	4084	174	4258
5. Number of Half-days devoted to Inspection	103	18	121
Treatment	463	29	492
Total	566	47	613
6. Fillings :			
Permanent Teeth	1543	—	1543
Temporary Teeth	—	—	—
7. Extractions :			
Permanent Teeth	939	68	1007
Temporary Teeth	2334	279	2613
8. Local Anaesthetics	3262	—	3262
General Anaesthetics	—	172	172
9. Sealings Permanent Teeth	431	—	431

Table V.**Verminous Conditions.**

(i) Average number of visits made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised person : (Anglesey : 23.37. Evacuees : 25.00)	23.70
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised person : (Anglesey : 50675. Evacuees : 6862)	57538
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean : Anglesey : 144. Evacuees : 21)	165
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	—
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken : (a) Under the Education Act, 1921—Nil. (b) Under School Attendance Byelaws—Nil.	

Table VI.**Blind and Deaf Children.**

	(1) At a Public Elementary School	(2) At an Institution other than a special School	(3) At no School or Institution	(4) Total not receiving suitable Education
Blind Children ...	—	—	1	1
Deaf Children	1	—	—	1

Mentally Defective Children.

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1943, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928